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**GRASS VALLEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOSHUA DAVID PACKARD, 26, of Grass Valley, California, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

This case is the product of extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Chico Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of the Nevada City Police Department, the Grass Valley Police Department, and other state and local law enforcement in and around Nevada County, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, PACKARD was arrested at his grandmother's house on April 8, 2007 on a parole violation and for evading officers on a high speed chase through residential neighborhoods the prior day. Incident to his arrest, law enforcement discovered that PACKARD was carrying a loaded Ruger 9mm semi-automatic pistol in a shoulder holster under his sweatshirt. PACKARD had another loaded magazine for his pistol on his person and a 5" folding knife.

On April 27, 2007, PACKARD was charged by a federal grand jury with being a felon in possession of a firearm. PACKARD has four prior felony convictions: (1) grand theft, in Nevada County, on or about October 6, 2000; (2) forgery/passing false checks, in Nevada County, on or about October 16, 2000; (3) possession of controlled substance, in Nevada County, on or about January 16, 2003; and (4) evading a peace officer, in Nevada County, on or about March 7, 2003.

PACKARD was remanded into custody after entry of his guilty plea. His sentencing is scheduled for August 31, 2007. The plea agreement calls for a stipulated sentence of five years and two months. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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